

## Message Text

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44

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 OPIC-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3946

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP MR

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: ENGAGEMENT OF US ENGINEERING FIRM WU  
GIRM CONSULTANT

REFZN A. STATE 136932 B. NOUAKCHOTT 1148

1. INDICATION REFTEL A THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF GIRM  
RETAINING US ENGINEERING FIRM AS BROAD RANGING CONSULTANT  
SHOULD BE CAREFULLY NURTURED WITH TENDERNESS AND IMAGINATION.  
THERE IS HARDLY ANY OTHER SINGLE STEP GIRM COULD TAKE WHICH  
WOULD HAVE EQUAL IMPACT ON SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF  
NEARLY COMPLETED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR WOULD MORE  
SIGNIFICANTLY BENEFIT MAURITANIA, AND INCIDENTALLY UNITED  
STATES.

2. WE SOULD RECOGNIZE IMMEDIATELY, HOWEVER, STAGE IS NOT  
COMPLETELY EMPTY; THERE ARE ALREADY SEVERAL AMERICAN ACTORS  
ON THE BOARDS. IT THEREFORE BEHOOVES US TO PURSUE NEW  
CONSULTING ENGINEERING PROPOSAL IN SUCH WAY THAT WE (A) DO  
NOT COMPLICATE ACTIVITIES OR RELATIONSHIPS OF PRESENT  
US CAST, AND (B) PROFIT FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE AND THE  
RELATIONSHIPS THEY HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED WITH VARIOUS  
SEGMENTS OF MAURITANIAN BUREAUCRACY. REF B REPORTED ON  
SOLID AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP H. K. FERGUSON HAS  
DEVELOPED WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL AND STAFF OF SNIM, GIRM  
INDUSTRIAL HOLDING COMPANY, IN CONNECTION WITH FURTHER  
EXPLOITATION OF NATION'S COPPER AND IRON WEALTH. W. B.

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STROBEL OF LONDON-BASED PLANET CORPORATION CONSULTING

ENGINEERS HAS DEVELOPED EQUALLY CLOSE AND BIFECTIVE RAPPORT WITH SNIM CHIEF AND STAFF ON CONSTRUCTION OF NOUADHIBOU OIL REFINERY WHICH WAS DESIGNED BY THIRD US ENGINEERING FIRM, KELLOGG. FINALLY, A. D. LITTLE (AFTER VISIT TO MAURITANIA) TENDERED FORMAL PROPOSAL TO OINISTRY PLANNING (AND TO KUWAIT DEVELOPMENT FUND) FOR NAJOR STUDY ON MAURITANIA'S MINIERAL POTENTIAL.

3. THERE ARE AT LEAST FIVE GIRM MINISTRIES WHICH REQUIRE ENGINEERING SUPPORT IN PLANNING AND EXECUTING THEIR PROGRAMS, AND WHICH WOULD THUS PROFIT FROM THE READY AVAILABILITY OF CONTINUOUS ON-THE-SCENE US ENGINEERING EXPERTISE: PLANNING, COMMERE & TRANSPORT, RURAL DECELOPMENT, EQUIPMENT (WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ROADS, PORTS, ENERGY, AND CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS); AND NOUAKCHOTT-NEMA ROAD. POTZTIAL US CONSULTANT (RALPH PARSONS OR OTHER) SHOULD HAVE CAPABILITY OF EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSING THIS BROAD RANGE OF ENGINEERING PROBLEMS. ALTERNATIVELY, TWO OR MORE FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN ONE OR MORE PARTS OF SPECTRUM MIGHT BE SUGGESTED TO GIRM. ENGINEERING OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE PROJECTS, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT BETTER BE HANDLED BY FIRM CONCENTRATING IN THIS SPECIAL FIELD.

4. AMBASSADOR LOOKS FORWARD TO OPPORTUNITY OF PURSUE CONSULTANT PRO POSAL WITH AMBASSADOR OULD ABDALLAH. EMBASSY STANDS READY TO DO AHATEVER IS NECESSARY AT THIS END TO SUPPORT AND ADVANCE THIS PROPOSAL. PLEASE KEEP US FILLED IN AS ENGINEERING CONSULTANT PROPOSAL DEVELOPS.HANDYSIDE

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**To:** STATE  
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